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Mr. Richard H. LeFebvre
Executive Director
Adirondack Park Agency
PO Box 99, Route 86
Ray Brook, New York 12977

Dear Dick:

I am writing regarding the pending construction of a Lowe's home improvement store in Ticonderoga, New York, and recent reports about the Adirondack Park Agency's (APA) opposition to the company's signage request.

According to an article that appeared in the June 23, 2006 edition of the *Plattsburgh Press Republican*, Adirondack Park Agency officials have "already made up their minds" on the pending permit application – even before a public hearing has been held. To say that I am concerned about such allegations would be an understatement, particularly given the perception that APA officials are simply going through the motions of a required hearing. I would expect that this project, like all other projects under the APA's jurisdiction, is entitled to and would receive a full and fair review. Further, I would expect that APA officials would reserve judgment regarding the pending application until after the mandatory opportunity for public comment has occurred. I trust this will, indeed, be the case.

As the representative in Congress for parts of Essex County and the Ticonderoga area, I know all too well the challenges this community and others throughout my 23rd Congressional District face in terms of creating stronger economies and, with that, jobs. This project is critical for this region and is expected to create more than 200 direct jobs. In addition, it is important to note that it is part of a larger economic development initiative for the greater Ticonderoga region.

Regrettably, the recent statements by officials within your agency have now placed this project in jeopardy. It is my understanding that, at the suggestion of the APA, officials from Lowe's have compromised on a number of issues. Given this fact, and the tireless efforts of both the company and community leaders to bring this project to fruition, I strongly urge you to do everything possible to ensure that this project is given a full and unbiased assessment before a decision is rendered. Furthermore, it would appear that, based on the information available, this request for a waiver is, indeed, appropriate.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours,

John M. McHugh
Member of Congress